

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPAN: BELLICOSITY OVER BELENKO BOTTOMS OUT

THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY HANDED THE SOVIETS AN
OFFICIAL WRITTEN REBUTTAL ON THE MIG-25 AFFAIR. ACCORDING
TO EMBASSY TOKYO, THE NOTE SPECIFIED THAT:

--BELENKO HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE US OF HIS OWN
FREE WILL.

--THE SOVIETS WERE GIVEN ACCESS TO BELENKO DESPITE
HIS EXPRESS WISHES TO THE CONTRARY.

--JAPAN IS NOT SUBJECT TO INTERFERENCE FROM ANY
THIRD COUNTRY ON THE HANDLING OF THE PLANE.

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--THE GOJ WILL TAKE ANY MEASURES IT DEEMS NECESSARY

TO EXAMINE THE AIRCRAFT SINCE IT VIOLATED JAPAN'S AIRSPACE.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOGO BELIEVES SOVIET TEMPERS HAVE COOLED SOMEWHAT, AND THE INCIDENT SHOULD NOT HAVE A

LASTING EFFECT ON JAPANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS. TOGO ANTICIPATES, HOWEVER, SOME SOVIET GESTURE OF DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOJ, EITHER IN THE FORM OF A HARDENED POSITION ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES OR, MORE PROBABLY, IN THE FISHERIES AREA. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 14178, 9/21.

2. SOVIETS STILL BETTING ON SYRIA

A POLITICAL OFFICER IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN CAIRO TOLD EMBASSY CAIRO THAT MOSCOW IS NOW MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO INDUCE PRESIDENT ASAD TO ADOPT A MORE EVEN-HANDED STANCE BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON. THE OFFICER, AN ARABIST WHO HAS SERVED IN LEBANON:

--CONCEDED THAT SOVIET POLICY HAD BEEN INCONSISTENT OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS BECAUSE MOSCOW HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME TO UNDERSTAND SYRIAN MOTIVES;

--NOTED THAT MOSCOW CURRENTLY SEES SYRIA AS THE ONLY VIABLE ARBITER OF LEBANESE DESTINIES; AND

--SAID THAT BECAUSE THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BEIRUT WAS SCARCELY FUNCTIONING, THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN CAIRO WAS ATTEMPTING TO PICK UP SOME OF THE ANALYTICAL SLACK. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 12712, 9/21.

3. FRANCE: MORE ON CHIRAC'S RESIGNATION

AMBASSADOR RUSH SPOKE WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHABAN-DELMAS ON THE CHIRAC RESIGNATION AND THE FUTURE OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT. CHABAN-DELMAS SAID:

--CHIRAC'S RESIGNATION IS SIGNIFICANT ONLY IN TERMS
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OF FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICS AND HAS NO BEARING ON NATIONAL DEFENSE OR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

--THE GAULLIST UDR WILL SUPPORT GISCARD AND BARRE AND WILL PROVE, BARRING UNFORESEEN EVENTS, TO BE A KEY PART OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY.

--CHIRAC, WITH ALL HIS AMBITIONS, MUST THINK TWICE

BEFORE ENGAGING IN A LEADERSHIP BATTLE IN THE UDR
BECAUSE SUCH A STRUGGLE WOULD SPLIT THE PARTY.

--GISCARD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT
INROADS ON THE "UNION OF THE LEFT", WHICH IS SOLID
AT LEAST UNTIL THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 27427, 9/20. HABIB

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